

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims

- 1-21. (Canceled)
22. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) SEQ ID NO:1.
23. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, wherein said polynucleotide is (a).
24. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, wherein said polynucleotide is (b).
25. (New) A method for making a recombinant vector comprising inserting the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22 into a vector.
26. (New) A nucleic acid sequence complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
27. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
28. (New) The recombinant vector of claim 27, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.
29. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
30. (New) The recombinant host cell of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

31. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule for the detection of *Staphylococcus aureus*, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises at least 50 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) SEQ ID NO:1.

32. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31, wherein said polynucleotide is (a).

33. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31, wherein said polynucleotide is (b).

34. (New) A method for making a recombinant vector comprising inserting the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31 into a vector.

35. (New) A nucleic acid sequence complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.

36. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.

37. (New) The recombinant vector of claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

38. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31.

39. (New) The recombinant host cell of claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

40. (New) A method for detecting *Staphylococcus aureus* comprising:
- (a) contacting a biological sample with the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 22; and
 - (b) detecting the presence or absence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the sample.
41. (New) A method for detecting *Staphylococcus aureus* comprising:
- (a) contacting a biological sample with the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 31; and
 - (b) detecting the presence or absence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the sample.